

Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular

When: Both of the Boston Pops concerts start at 8pm, and both are free. The fireworks, which begin after the end of the Pops concert on the 4th, usually begin around 10:00 - 10:30 pm and are also free.

Where: The Esplanade, a 3-mile green space on the banks of the Charles River.

Getting There: Public transportation is your best bet. Take the Green Line to Arlington or the Red Line to Charles/ MGH (Boston side of the river) or Kendall Square (Cambridge side of the river).

Sailabration: One of Boston's best kept secrets, this fundraiser for the Community Boating Foundation is the calmest place to enjoy the festivities. The Sailabration, which takes place on Community Boating's docks just behind the Hatch Shell, features a tasty barbeque and unobstructed views of the fireworks. Tickets are \$100 for adults and \$25 for kids.

Music: Concerts on July 3 and 4 feature Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra along with special guests in the historic Hatch Shell. The finale features Tchaikovsky's explosive *1812 Overture*, ending with drum rolls and real cannon fire, while church bells ring throughout the city.

Best Concert Viewing: To view the concert, you should look for a spot in "the Oval," a grassy area in front of the Hatch Shell. For the concert, this area is fenced in to prevent overcrowding. The entrances to the Oval open at 4pm on the 3rd, and 9am on the 4th. Arrive early to get a seat!

Fireworks: The skies light up on July 4th with dazzling pyrotechnics reaching as high as 1,500 feet.

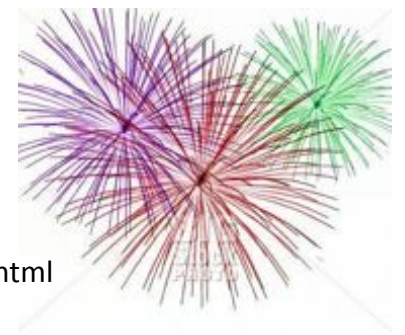
Best Fireworks Viewing: The fireworks are launched from a barge between the Mass Ave and Longfellow bridges and can be seen from both the Boston and Cambridge sides of the river. Sound towers, which broadcast the accompanying music are also set up on both sides of the river.

Learn More:

Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular Official Web Site
<http://www.july4th.org/>

Boston Discovery Guide's Tips and Tricks
<http://www.boston-discovery-guide.com/boston-fireworks.html>

Community Boating's Sailabration
<http://www.community-boating.org/news-a-events/fourth-of-july-sailabration>



Boston's Harborfest



When: June 29 – July 4, 2011

What: A six-day long Fourth of July Festival that showcases the colonial and maritime heritage of the cradle of the American Revolution: the historic City of Boston.

Where: Over 200 daily events are concentrated in Boston's historic downtown and waterfront districts, with sponsored main events on Boston's City Hall Plaza.

Getting There: Public transportation is your best bet. Take the Green Line to Government Center.

Learn More:

Boston's Harborfest Official Web Site
<http://www.bostonharborfest.com/>

Main Events

Wednesday, June 29: **Opening Ceremony**

Noon – 2:30 p.m., West End of Fanueil Hall Marketplace

Thursday, June 30: **Children's Day**

A free day of fun and games for children of all ages. Juggling, music, dance, balloon fun, and much more.

All Day, Boston's City Hall Plaza

Thursday, June 30-Monday, July 4: **Extreme Sailing Series**

Eleven international, multi-hull sail boats will participate in up to eight races each afternoon.

2 – 5 p.m. (brief awards ceremony at 5:30 p.m.), Fan Pier

Saturday, July 2: **Party on the Plaza**

DISCO INFERNO: A flashback to the 70s with a fun interactive stage show from the disco/funk era with opener Girls Nite Out

6 – 9 p.m., North Stage, City Hall Plaza

Saturday, July 2: ***The Redcoats are coming!***

The Redcoats invade the city! Soldiers arrive by sea and march up King (State) Street to the Boston Common.

11 a.m. – Noon Long Wharf; Noon – 4:30 p.m. Boston Common

Sunday, July 3: **Chowderfest**

A competition between restaurants in the greater Boston area for the best New England style clam chowder. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children.

11 a.m., City Hall Plaza